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EUGENE V. ROSTOW

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January 17, 1980

Hon. Lloyd N. Cutler
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Lloyd:

We have been going around in circles, so I thought I should send you this bulletin by letter. I attended the White House breakfast last Wednesday, which turned out to be a lively and revealing affair. The consensus, as I read it, is that the President's program is inadequate with regard to Iran and Afghanistan, especially Afghanistan. There is also a great deal of skepticism about the sincerity of his conversion. I enclose a copy of my letter to Cy about the discussion, plus a newspaper report about a speech by Kazemzedah. I think there really was a consensus, as George said, although none of the doves spoke at all. The discussion of Afghanistan started with a question of mine, and went on with Schlesinger, George Ball, Rumsfeld, Kirkland, Huntington, Walt, etc.

It is absolutely essential that the President's speech and program be big enough, and strong enough, to carry the day. What about a bipartisan foreign policy? F.D.R. appointed Stimson and Knox in 1940, didn't he? It wouldn't hurt him politically.

As always,



EVR/kr
Enclosures

P.S. Any word on your calls in Victor's behalf?

THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1960

Lecturer feels Soviets won't risk confrontation



FIRUZ KAZEMZADEH

A turning point

Russian moves by inches

by moving into Afghanistan, Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan will not advance into neighboring Pakistan and Iran unless they have "certain knowledge" the United States and other Western nations will permit it, according to an Iranian professor at Yale.

The Soviets "are perfectly prepared to move by inches," Firuz Kazemzadeh, a history professor, said Tuesday at the Sheraton-Park Plaza Hotel before a Rotary Club gathering. "Over the centuries these inches become thousands and thousands of miles."

Kazemzadeh, master of Davenport College and a noted lecturer on the Middle East, was scheduled to speak on the Iranian situation, but opted for a discussion of Afghanistan instead. He said the recent Soviet takeover in that country makes for an "even worse" situation for the United States than the ongoing crisis at the American Embassy in Tehran.

"This may be a turning point for the United States," he said. "Our tendency has been to push the commitment into the background — to think of an act of aggression as the final act."

The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, he said, is only part of a long-standing expansionist policy characteristic of the Soviet Union.

"Many see the Soviet invasion as a novelty, but it is not," he said. "Their invasions into Central Asia began in 1929 and there have been many since then."

"Following the Crimean War, within 30 years they occupied an area one-half the size of the United States — from Southern Siberia into Central Asia," he said.

According to Kazemzadeh, Central Asian nations lost 250 men to every one Russian soldier during these takeovers.

"It was a remarkable achievement, an unparalleled accomplishment. A tremendous empire was created in one generation with minimal loss," he said.

"Electrostatic reproduction made for preservation purposes."